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MRS. M. E. DAVIS'

# DRESS CHART

AND

## SELF-INSTRUCTOR.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.  
St. Joseph Steam Printing Company,  
1882.

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MRS. M. E. DAVIS'

# Dress Chart and Self-Instructor.

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## *DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING THE MEASURES.*

Have two bands 1 inch wide and from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  yards long. Pin one tightly around the waist, and the other loosely around the hips, over the most prominent part.

*First Measure or Key*.—Place the tape measure at the center of the back of the neck. Hold it in place with one hand, and with the other hand pass the tape over the shoulder, towards the front, around under the arm (with the arm raised), back up to the center of neck again, tight. Write down the number of inches.

*Second or Length of Back*.—Place the tape measure again at the back of the neck; take the tape down the back to the lower edge of band. Write down the number.

*Third or Bust Measure*.—Take the tape around the bust high over the shoulder-blades, close under the arm, and over the most prominent part of the bust, loose or tight, as required. Write down the number.

*Fourth or Waist Measure*.—Take the tape around the waist over the band, tight. Write down the number.

*Fifth or Front and Dart Measure*.—Place the tape at back of neck again; take the tape over the shoulder, close to the side of the neck, down to the lower edge of waist band in front. Write down the number.

Before removing the tape, notice what number on the tape rests against the bust just below the most prominent point. Write down the number.

*Sixth or Hip Measure*.—Take the tape around the hips, over the hip band, loose. Write down the number.

*Seventh or Spring Measure*.—Place the tape at lower edge of waist band; take it down to the lower edge of hip band, over the hip. Write down the number.

*Eighth or Under Arm Measure*.—Place the tape close under the arm; take it down to the lower edge of the waist band. Write down the number.

*Ninth or Arm Measure.*—Take the tape around the arm over the shoulder, not too tight. Write down the number.

*Tenth or Sleeve Measure.*—Place the tape at the armpit, and with the arm straight, place the tape down to the wrist, or as short as is required. Write down the number.

*Eleventh or Hand Measure.*—Measure around the hand with the fist doubled, or as large as is required. Write down the number.

*Twelfth or Skirt Measure.*—Place the tape at the lower edge of waist band, in front; take the tape down to the toe of the shoe, or shorter, as is required. Write down the number.

#### MEASUREMENTS.

|            |           |               |            |                                      |
|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1          | 2         | 3             | 4          | 5                                    |
| Key, 25;   | Back, 16; | Bust, 36;     | Waist, 24; | Dart and Front, $13\frac{1}{4}$ -19; |
| 6          | 7         | 8             | 9          | 10                                   |
| Spring, 5; | Hip, 40;  | Under Arm, 8; | Arm, 16;   | Sleeve, 17;                          |
| 11         |           |               |            | 12                                   |
| Skirt, 40. |           |               |            |                                      |

### DIRECTIONS FOR DRAUGHTING AND CUTTING.

#### LESSON FIRST.

First draw a straight line full length of the paper, leaving a margin of three fourths of an inch for a seam. This line is the center line. Take the back of the chart, lay it on the paper straight, so that this line can be seen through all the holes on center line on chart. Commence to draught at A, using Key 25; dot through all the holes around to D; dot at B. Now lay aside the chart and take the straight rule; lay the long end on center line, with the No. 16 on rule touching on dot A, and dot at lower end for length of back. Now take the tape and measure the distance between B and C on the back of the chart, using the Key 25; the distance is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Now dot by the short end of rule the corresponding number of inches (which is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches). This dot is C. Draw a line across from B to C by the rule, just as it lies for waist line. Notice how far below B this line is, and keep it in mind, as this measure is used on the front. The distance is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Now draw straight lines from C to D, and a curved line from D, E and F. Draw a straight line from F to I, and from I to A. This is for a plain back, and is ready to cut out. Always allow  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch seams, except at the neck and arms-eye; these cut on the line.

#### LESSON SECOND.

##### HOW TO DRAUGHT THE FRONT.

Draw a line 1 inch from the edge of the paper. This is for the hem. Lay the front of the chart on the paper so that the line can be seen

through the holes on front lines on chart. Commence at the neck and dot through the holes, using the Key 25; dot around to C. Now, to get the bust, which is 36 inches, take the tape and divide the bust measure in half, which is 18; take back of chart and lay the figure 18 on center line, opposite D; take the tape across to dot D, using the Key 25; notice what figures of the tape rest at dot D, which is  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches; now dot on front in bust measurement the corresponding number, which is  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Now, to get the waist, which is 24 inches, take the tape and divide the waist measure in half, which is 12 inches; lay the figure 12 of tape on B, at back of chart; carry the tape to C, using the Key 25. Notice what figure of the tape rests at dot C, which is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Now dot in waist measurements on front the corresponding number, which is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Lay the chart aside and bring the two dots—the bust dot and the waist dot—directly opposite the two key dots, and dot again. Now add down the paper from this last waist dot the same distance that was added below B on back, for waist line, which is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches; make a dot: this is C on front. Draw a line from C to D. Now, to get the height of darts and front, take the tape and measure on back the distance between A and 1, which is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches; lay the figure  $1\frac{3}{4}$  on 1 on front, carry the tape down on front line, letting the figure of front measure, which is 19, rest on front line; make a dot for dot 2. Before removing the tape, dot for heights of darts at figure  $13\frac{1}{4}$ . Now draw a waist line from dot 2 to C; also a horizontal line for heights of darts. There are 3 inches to be taken up in darts; put this into two darts of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches each. Lay the long side of the straight rule on the front line, letting the short end of rule run across the paper at waist line. Dot at figure 2 on rule: this is for space. Dot at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  for dart; at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  for space between dart; at 6 for dart. Slip the rule up to height of dart line and dot the same; now draw straight lines lengthwise from each dot, the same as is shown in diagram; dot on height of dart line between the darts space. Take the spring rule; let the point touch these dots; let the curved side touch the straight lines about one half the distance between the waist line and heights of dart lines; rule each side the same, as is shown in the diagram, for the under arm length measure, from waist line up under the arms-eye, and make a dot at 8 inches; draw line by straight rule. At the shoulder, draw a curved line from F around to D, touching under arm dot. Do not come too close to dot 4, or the arms-eye will be too large. Draw a line in the neck touching all the dots. Cut out the same as back.

### LESSON THIRD.

#### DIRECTIONS FOR DRAUGHTING IN THE CHILDREN'S SIZES.

[The Bust Measure in the Child Measurement is the Key.]

#### MEASUREMENTS.

Bust, 25; Back,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ; Waist, 23; Spring, 4; Hip, 28; Arm,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ; Hand, 7; Skirt, from back of neck to hem, 26.

How to draught the Back: First draw a line as before; lay the back of chart on paper, letting the line show through holes in lap line on

chart. Commence at A, using the Bust No. 25; dot through the holes, following the line around to D; dot at center lap dot. Lay aside the chart, and draw lines from each dot; lay the straight rule on the lap line, the same as before, letting the No.  $12\frac{1}{2}$  on rule touch at A; dot at lower end of rule for length of back; draw a line across by short end of rule, for waist line, the same distance it is from center lap dot to C on chart, which is 5 inches, and dot; draw a line from C to D; this is now ready to cut out. This is for a loose waist.

To draught the Front: Lay the front chart on the paper, letting the edge of paper come to second line; dot through all the holes around to C, using the Bust Number, which is 25; dot at No. 2 on second line; lay aside the chart; now dot below No. 2 the same distance that is added below center lap dot on back, which is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches; measure the distance between C and D on back paper, which is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches; measure on front from D down past C the same distance, and dot for C; now draw a line from this C to front dot; draw lines touching all the dots. Cut out the same as before. This is for a loose waist.

## LESSON FOURTH.

### DIRECTIONS FOR DRAUGHTING BASQUE, POLONAISE AND PRINCESS DRESSES IN LADIES' SIZES.

Commence the same as for plain waist; dot around to E. In drawing the waist line at back, divide the distance between B and C in half, the distance being  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ; 'tis well enought to dot at figure 2 on rule, leaving the extra  $2\frac{1}{4}$  for the side form. When this measure is even inches, always divide it in half. Make a dot at figure 2: this is G. Now take the spring rule; lay the point at E; let the curved side touch at G, and draw a line from E to G; now measure down on center line from length of waist line just twice the distance that it is from B to C, which is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches; make a dot; this dot is H. Now measure across the paper from H just the distance that it is from B to C, less  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, which is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches; make a dot; this dot is I. Now take the straight rule; let one end touch at dot G and the other at I; draw a line; extend the line as far down as is required. Now lay the chart back on the paper, straight; dot at E, D and B. Lay aside the chart. Lay the straight rule at B dot on paper, letting the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches on rule touch at the B dot, with the short end extending across the paper; now dot at figure 2 on rule for G; now dot at figure  $4\frac{1}{4}$  on rule for C; draw a line from C to G by rule; draw a line from C to D; lay the curved side of the spring rule at E and G, the same as before; draw a line from E to G, and below G just twice the distance that it is from B to C, which is  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ; make a dot; this dot is J. Now measure across the paper from J just the distance that it is from B to C, which is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches; make a dot; this dot is K. If much fullness is required here for a bustle, add the extra half inch that was dropped between H and I, which will make J and K  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches apart instead of  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Draw a line from C to K. For a Basque, cut it the desired length; for a Polanaise, use the skirt measure from the waist line down,

and the same for a Princess. If the Polonaise should be cut all in one piece, allow about 7 inches for a plait in the back; that is, draw the center line 7 inches from the edge of the paper, in draughting the side from dot just opposite B on paper, about 2 inches; then lay Charts B on this dot, and draught the same; this will give a dart between back and side form. The plait in the back can be extended as low as is required. If a plait is required between the back and side form, make the back plait less, and dot the opposite B, about 6 inches from B; then rule straight across, about from 4 to 6 inches below the waist line; cut out to this line. Shape the bottom as is required. For a Princess Dress, use the skirt measure from the waist line down, using the same length on all the seams for a walking length; for a traveling skirt allow one half inch more to each seam, or more, as is required.

## LESSON FIFTH.

### DIRECTIONS FOR DRAUGHTING BASQUES, POLONAISE AND PRINCESS DRESSES IN LADIES' SIZES—CONTINUED.

Draught the front the same as for a plain waist. To get the under arm dart, measure the distance between the back dart line and dot C, which is  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches; divide this in half, and make a dot on waist line; this dot is 3; the distance from dot 3 to dot C is  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches. Now measure toward the front from D the same,  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches, and make a dot. Now draw a line from this dot to dot 3: this is line 5. Now take the spring rule; lay it straight up and down on the paper, with the spring dot directly over dot 3. Now dot for spring measure on spring rule at No. 5; this is dot 8. Slip the rule back, letting the edge of rule touch at dot 3 and 8; draw a line by the spring side; take the straight rule, let it touch at dot 8, and draw a straight line from dot 8 up to the arms-eye; this is line 6. Measure up on this line from dot 8 just 5 inches (the same distance it is from 3 to 8); make a dot; this is dot 7. Measure back from dot 7 across the paper  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches, or one half the distance that it was first between back dart line and C, which was  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches. Make a dot; this is C. Now draw a straight line up from C just the length that it is from C to D on back, which is  $9\frac{3}{8}$  inches; make a dot; this is D. Now lay the spring rule with spring dot against dot C, with the straight side with line running from C to D. Draw a line by a spring side; this is line K. Now measure up on lines 5 and 6, from dot 3 and 7, using the under arm measure, which is 8; make dot. Now draw lines from D to these dots, and from F around to line 5, but not too close to dot 4, or the arms-eye will be too large. The space between lines 5 and 6 must always be cut out, or it will not come together properly; but must allow seams. Extend the dart lines 10 inches below the waist line; make a dot at lower end in center of dart space. Rule straight lines from each of these dots to the point where the waist lines cross the darts line, as is shown in diagram. For a Basque, cut across the desired length. For Polonaise and Princess, cut the required length, measuring

from the waist line down, using the skirt measure. For a walking length Princess, measure from waist line, using the skirt measure; also from C down, following the spring or K line. If a longer skirt is required, allow one half to one inch longer at side than at front.

## LESSON SIXTH.

### DIRECTIONS FOR DRAUGHTING BASQUES, POLONAISE AND GABRIELLE DRESSES IN CHILDREN'S SIZES.

Draught the same as before, except in dividing the back between B and C. Use the waist measure; that is, measure the distance from center lap dot to C, using the waist measure 23 instead of 25, as in directions for loose waist. Then follow the same directions as in ladies' sizes. Draught the front the same as before. To get the under arm dart, dot back from D toward dot 4, about two-thirds the distance, or about 1 inch. Draw a straight line down from this dot to waist line for line 5. Make dot 3. Use the spring rule the same as before, using the spring measure 4, and dot for 8; rule line 6 and dot on line 6 from dot 8 up 4 inches for dot 7. Now notice how far the chart dot C is from line 5, which is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Now add across from dot 7 the  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches, and dot for C; dot 1 inch from line 6 at top. Draw a line; this line will not be straight on the paper, as in ladies' sizes. Rule by spring rule from C the same as in ladies' sizes. If the garment is to be fitted tight, measure on chart the distance between bust and waist figures in waist row—that is, between 25 and 23—which is three-fourths of an inch; this amount is to be taken up in one dart. In larger sizes the dart will be larger, and can be divided in two darts. To get the length of skirt, measure from back of neck down to bottom; measure the front by the back from the waist down. To cut coats, cut the same as for plain waist, except to use the waist number at back the same as for tight waist, and shape it in front like it is on chart.

## LESSON SEVENTH.

### DIRECTIONS FOR USING THE SLEEVE PIECE.

Double the paper. Lay the chart straight on the paper, with the top towards the right hand; commence to dot at Q, using the arm measure 16. Dot in all the corresponding numbers, both for the upper and under side of the sleeve. Now lay aside the chart and take the tape and measure straight down from Q, using the sleeve measure, which is 17; make a dot; this dot will come below the R dot. Measure to see how much below the R dot this length of sleeve dot is. (It is 3 inches.) Now measure the same distance straight down on the paper from S, and make a dot. Draw a line from these two dots. Now divide the hand measure, which is 10 inches, in half, which is 5 inches. Measure on this line, from length of sleeve dot, the 5 inches, and make a dot. Now draw lines touching all the dots: one line for the upper part of sleeve; the other for the under. Do not draw straight up from Q, but one-fourth of an inch inside,

opposite Q; then run up over top, touching all the dots, as shown in diagram. Run both lines into one dot at the hand. R and S will be left out, as they are of no further use but to measure from. Cut out both pieces; then take the top piece and cut on the inside line for the under half of sleeve. While the under piece is the upper half, cut the other sleeve by this.

#### DIRECTIONS FOR USING THE SKIRT PIECE.

Double a width of cloth, with the double edge toward the operator. Lay the chart on the cloth straight, with L resting on the double edge. Use the hip measure, 40; dot at L, M and N. Lay aside the chart and draw a line from L to M. Take the straight rule; let it touch at dots M and N. Draw a line down full length of skirt measure, which is 40; make a dot; measure down from L the same length, 40, and dot; cut across the bottom, touching each dot; cut on the lines. This is the front width. Now cut a straight width just the length of front measure, which is 40, and just the width of front width at the bottom; this is the back. To get the side widths, lay the chart on a single piece of cloth; dot at M, NN, O and P, using the hip measure, 40. Remove the chart and draw straight line from each dot. Measure down from dot O, using the skirt measure, which is 40, and dot. Draw a line from M and NN full length of skirt measure, and dot. Cut out on line. The straight side goes next to the front width. This is for a walking skirt. If a longer skirt is required, allow one half inch on each seam on front and side widths, gradually sloping it down from about the center of side widths toward the back, making the back width as much longer than the front as is required. In cutting a trailing skirt, make the side width wider; this can be done by curving the line from NN out a little, and as long as is required.

#### DIRECTIONS FOR CUTTING AND BASTING.

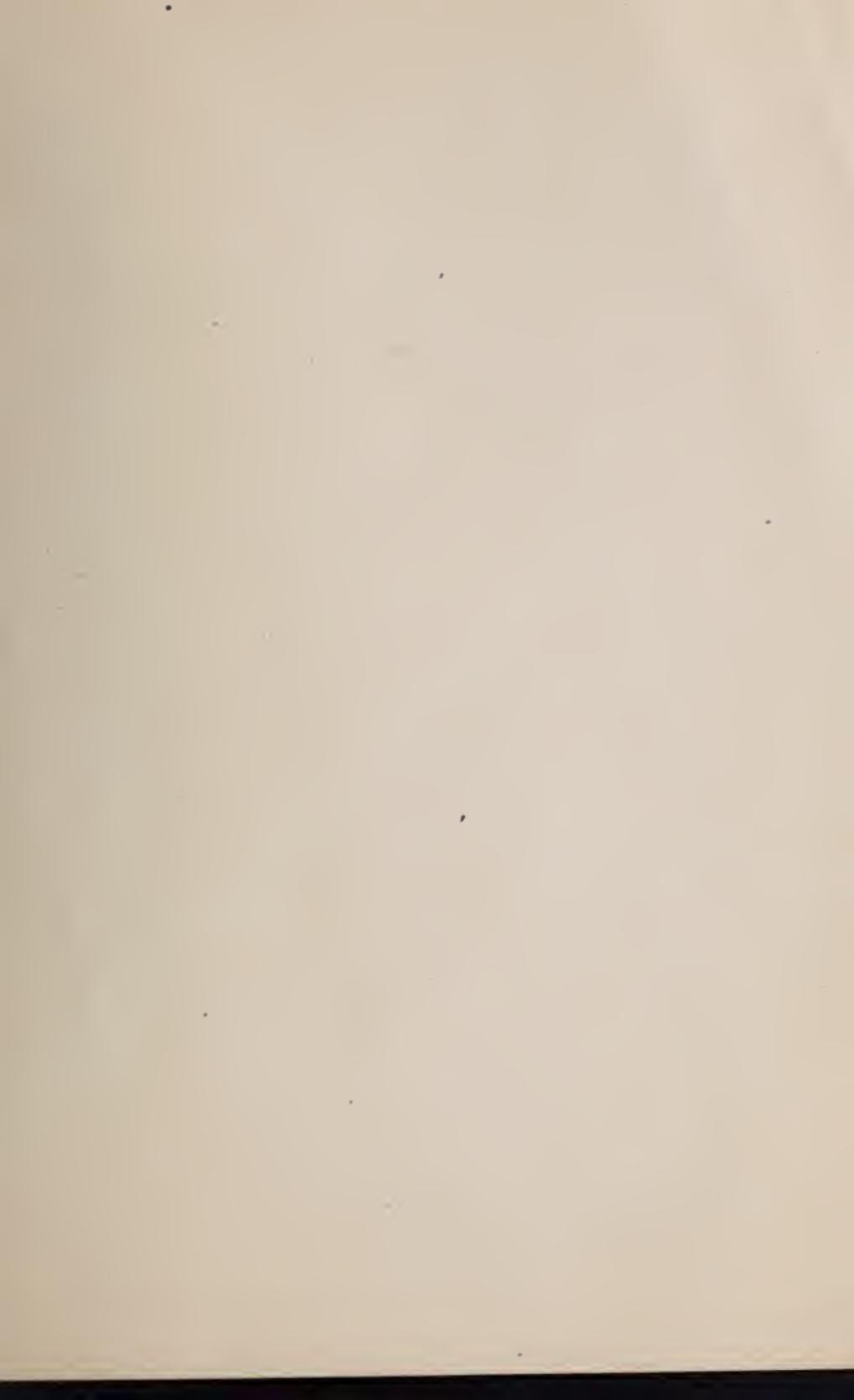
Take 2 yards of light colored corset jeans, or some soft lining. Lay the ends together; then cut the lining out crossways of the lining. Trace all the seams with a double tracing wheel, which will allow about  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch seams; then it is ready for the outside. Before basting, take the tape line and measure the bust, waist and hip, to test it. If it measures all right, cut it out. In testing the hip, observe on spring rule the test line; it will tell exactly how many inches has been added to the front. In basting up a dress, always join it together at the waist line first; be careful that it is perfectly straight, then baste both ways. At dot 4, at front of arms-eye in most cases, take up a small dart in the lining *only*, then draw the goods down to fit. In basting the shoulder, always commence at the neck. In setting a sleeve, let the inside seam at Q be fastened at the point where the threads of the lining running lengthwise and those running crosswise come together. Then baste in the sleeve over the top as full as can be, without being gathered. If it is a little large, lay a plait underneath. To finish the seams inside, trim off smooth; then lay one edge against three, with the raw edge turned in, and overcast close. Extend the corset forms, or the piece for the hooks and eyes, from the

top of the front dart, from 4 to 6 inches below the waist line, and just one half inch from the front edge of the dress. In cutting for very large people, the first space between the front edge and first dart should be from 2 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, so that the front will be more equally divided. This must depend upon the judgment of the operator. A great many persons are one-sided; that is, one hip will be higher than the other. In such cases the waist line on this side should be raised the desired length, and the seams over the hip let out to fit. In cutting for very stout, short-waisted ladies, in running the waist line across proper, it will make the dress too short under the arm in such cases; extend the waist down as long as is required, then cut it off at the neck the proper length from A and 1, but running it straight across to F and not changing F. Of course these directions are for imperfect forms. In cutting for very small ladies, the bust measure should be taken tighter than for a medium size. Then in draughting the waist measure on front, drop one half inch, which will leave but  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches for darts, which is quite sufficient when the front measure is quite short, which is often the case with elderly ladies. After the lining is all ruled off proper, dot 3 should be raised almost opposite the front dot, and rule across. Raise dot 7 opposite 3; this will make the waist line between dot 7 and dot C a little diagonal. In cutting loose waists, lay the back of the chart on the cloth, double, with the edge of cloth at A, and at B about 2 inches back from the edge of cloth; this will give the desired fullness in the back. Draught the front just the same as for any waist, and the fullness that is taken up in darts in any waist is sufficient for gathers. To cut a plaited waist, first plait it; then press it and cut out or lay on a plain lining and cut out by it. To cut children's aprons and loose garments, cut the same as for plain loose waist. Follow these directions in all measures.

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